



Actor Portrayal



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Closing the vaccination gap created by socioeconomic disparities¹:

The unique role of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

FQHCs provide care for many of America's historically underserved communities, which include **9.4 million children**.² While invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) rates have dropped significantly since the introduction of pneumococcal vaccines, children who are publicly insured still face higher rates of disease than those who are commercially insured, underscoring the need for equitable vaccination access.³

Persistent disparities in childhood vaccination coverage by race and ethnicity, poverty status, metropolitan statistical area (MSA) status, and health insurance status have been documented—leaving children, including those with underlying medical conditions, vulnerable to pneumococcal disease.^{1,4}



Protect the youngest

The **highest incidence rates** for IPD occur in the first 2 years of life, which is why it's so important to protect babies during this time.⁵



Diabetes

Children aged 5 to 17 years with diabetes are at **5.4 times greater risk** for IPD compared with healthy children in the same age range.⁶



Asthma

Children with asthma are at **1.6 to 2.1 times greater risk** for IPD compared with healthy children in the same age range, making them especially vulnerable to IPD.⁶

Ensure your patients receive their pneumococcal vaccination series on time to help provide critical protection against pneumococcal disease.^{4,7}

Learn more about a vaccine option for IPD.

[Click here](#)

Publicly insured patients lag behind in pediatric pneumococcal vaccination rates¹

Estimated vaccination coverage by age 24 months among children born during 2020-2021—National Immunization Survey-Child, United States, 2021-2023.¹

Only 70.6% of children experiencing poverty (n=4381)—many of whom are cared for by Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)—receive the full pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) 4-dose series by age 2 compared with 84.5% of children above the poverty line (n=23,369).¹

70.6% of children **below** the poverty line

13.9%

84.5% of children **above** the poverty line

FQHCs are uniquely positioned to close the vaccination gap created by socioeconomic disparities. Only **58% of uninsured children (n=569)** and 75.9% of Medicaid-eligible children (n=10,018) receive ≥4 doses of the PCV by age 2 compared with 87.8% of children with private insurance (n=16,007).¹

58% of uninsured children

29.8%

87.8% of children with private insurance

Providers at FQHCs play a critical role in addressing pneumococcal vaccination disparities by recommending pneumococcal vaccination for all eligible patients.^{1,7}

Contact your Pfizer representative for additional resources to help increase equitable access to vaccinations, including reminder/recall systems, strategies to leverage immunization information systems (IIS) data, and patient education materials.

References: **1.** Hill HA, Yankey D, Elam-Evans LD, et al. Decline in vaccination coverage by age 24 months and vaccination inequities among children born in 2020 and 2021 — National Immunization Survey-Child, United States, 2021–2023. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2024;73(38):844–853. **2.** National Association of Community Health Centers. America's health centers: by the numbers. October 31, 2024. Accessed February 26, 2025. <https://www.nachc.org/resource/americas-health-centers-by-the-numbers/> **3.** Mohanty S, Done N, Liu Q, et al. Incidence of pneumococcal disease in children ≤48 months old in the United States: 1998–2019. *Vaccine.* 2024;42(11):2758–2769. **4.** Farrar JL, Gierke R, Andrejko KL, et al. Use of 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine among U.S. children: updated recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2023;72(39):1072. **5.** Gierke R, McGee L, Beall B, Pilishvili T. Pneumococcal. In: Roush SW, Baldy LM, eds. *Manual for the Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. June 29, 2020. Accessed January 31, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/surv-manual/php/table-of-contents/chapter-11-pneumococcal.html> **6.** Pelton SI, Weycker D, Farkouh RA, Strutton DR, Shea KM, Edelsberg J. Risk of pneumococcal disease in children with chronic medical conditions in the era of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2014;59(5):615–623. **7.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Talking with parents about vaccines. Reviewed August 9, 2024. Accessed March 13, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/hcp/conversation-tips/index.html>

